

**From:** J. Greg Davidson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 11:06pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft is flouting the law and undermining the economy

After finding Microsoft guilty of systematic damaging monopolistic behavior they are getting only a tiny slap on the wrist. What is their response? Leveraging their monopoly to expand into the computer gaming market (never mind that their software makes writing games harder and will slow the expansion of that industry), network services (recently MSN turned off support for non-microsoft browsers and then turned it back on in response to complaints, sending fear into anyone using a non-microsoft browser), a virtual machine named .net designed to undermine Java (and they just shipped an old out of date Java with Windows XP so that Java would look bad), and on and on. Their arrogance is hard to believe, one must look again and again.

What is the effect of this flagrant violation of the law and of the findings of the Justice department? How can we expect any business to obey our laws? How can we expect innovation to keep coming out of small companies when the markets and patents are increasingly locked up and an anacronistic monopoly makes all the rules? What is the moral effect of the massive political contributions from Microsoft just before this sudden softening of law enforcement?

Please do your duty and break up any and all companies found to have become damaging monopolies. It will actually be good for their shareholders, as the smaller more focused pieces will get new life in a more competitive market.

Capitalism is like a garden, a bit of pruning keeps it healthy.

--

J. Greg Davidson  
jgd@well.com